

IN THE CLAIMS:

It is proposed to amend claims 18 and 21-24 herein. All pending claims are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter the claims as amended.

Listing of Claims

1-17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A composition, comprising:

a *Streptococcus suis* serotype 2 ~~comprising~~ knockout mutant wherein the knockout mutation is in the capsular polysaccharide (cps) gene cluster as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, wherein the ~~Streptococcus suis~~ comprises a knockout mutation is in the cpsB gene encoding the cpsB protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13, the cpsE gene encoding the cpsE protein as set for in SEQ ID NO:16, or the cpsF gene encoding the cpsF protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:17 or a combination thereof, the knockout mutation causing a deficiency in cellular capsular expression, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* ~~deficient in capsular expression~~ serotype 2 knockout mutant is capable of surviving in an immune-competent host.

22. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 21, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* ~~deficient in capsular expression~~ serotype 2 knockout mutant is capable of surviving at least 4-5 days in said immune-competent host.

23. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* ~~deficient in capsular expression~~ serotype 2 knockout mutant expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

24. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* ~~deficient in capsular expression~~ serotype 2 knockout mutant expresses a non-*Streptococcus* protein.

25. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 24, wherein said non-*Streptococcus* protein has been derived from a pathogen.

26-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 21, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* has been produced by homologous recombination.

33. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 21, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* is capable of surviving at least 8-10 days in said host.

34-55. (Canceled).

56. (New) The composition of claim 18, wherein the knockout mutation is in the cpsB gene encoding the cpsB protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13.

57. (New) The composition of claim 18, wherein the knockout mutation is in the cpsE gene encoding the cpsE protein as set for in SEQ ID NO:16.

58. (New) The composition of claim 18, wherein the knockout mutation is in the cpsF gene encoding the cpsF protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:17.

59. (New) A composition, comprising:

a *Streptococcus suis* mutant wherein the mutation is in the capsular polysaccharide (cps) gene cluster as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, wherein the mutation is produced by *in vitro* homologous recombination in the capsular polysaccharide (cps) gene cluster, the mutation causing a deficiency in cellular capsular expression.